

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A ~~continuous rubber-strip forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 1~~ method according to claim 8, wherein at completion of ~~such rubber-strip~~ the winding operation, said step of outputting includes gear pump is reversely rotated rotating a gear pump which feeds the forming nozzle with rubber material for removing a residual pressure in said gear pump.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A ~~continuous rubber-strip forming apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 2~~ method according to claim 8, further comprising:

~~— a first servomotor for driving said tire-building drum;~~

and

~~— a second servomotor for driving said gear pump;~~

—wherein ~~[[the]]~~ respective rotational speeds of ~~[[said]]~~ the tire-building drum and ~~[[said]]~~ a gear pump which feeds the forming nozzle with rubber material are individually set so as to eliminate ~~[[the]]~~ a need for detecting sag in the rubber strip being conveyed from ~~[[said]]~~ the forming nozzle to ~~[[said]]~~ the tire-building drum.

5. (Currently amended) A ~~continuous rubber-strip forming apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 2~~ method according to claim 8, wherein ~~said first driver unit includes a driving mechanism for permitting said rubber-strip~~ rubber strip extruding machine to be moved is movable along~~[[:]]~~ a first direction orthogonal to a rotary axis of said tire-building drum~~[[:]]~~, a second direction parallel to said rotary axis~~[[:]]~~, and a third and rotational direction defining a swing movement about a predetermined axis.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (New) A method of forming a continuous rubber strip, comprising:

pressing a forming nozzle of a rubber strip extruding machine against an outer surface of a tire-building drum by moving the rubber strip extruding machine forwardly towards the outer surface of the tire-building drum;

outputting the rubber strip with a predetermined sectional shape from an interior of the rubber strip extruding machine through the forming nozzle;

bringing a leading end of the rubber strip into tight contact with the outer surface of the tire-building drum;

initiating rotation of the tire-building drum when the rubber strip extruding machine is retreated, so that the forming nozzle is brought to a position in which the forming nozzle is spaced away from the tire-building drum by a predetermined distance;

continuing rotation of the tire-building drum thereby accomplishing a winding operation in which the rubber strip is wound on the outer surface of the tire-building drum;

pressing again the forming nozzle against the outer surface of the tire-building drum by moving again the rubber strip extruding machine forwardly towards the outer surface of the tire-building drum, at completion of the winding operation;

stopping rotation of the tire-building drum; and

stopping the outputting of the rubber strip thereby allowing the rubber strip to be cut off.

9. (New) A method of forming a continuous rubber strip, comprising:

moving a forming nozzle to a pressing position in which the forming nozzle is pressed against an outer surface of a tire-building drum;

outputting the rubber strip from the forming nozzle;

bringing a leading end of the rubber strip into contact with the outer surface of the tire-building drum;

initiating rotation of the tire-building drum while moving the forming nozzle to a retreated portion in which the forming nozzle is spaced away from the tire-building drum by a predetermined distance;

winding the rubber strip on the outer surface of the tire-building drum by continuing rotation of the tire-building drum; and

returning the forming nozzle to the pressing position upon completion of the winding operation; and

stopping rotation of the tire-building drum while concurrently stopping the outputting of the rubber strip.